



National Energy Policy

Excerpts from recent speeches by Governor Bill Clinton

I support an increase in corporate average fuel economy standards from the current 27.5 mpg. No single energy measure appears to present such a significant opportunity for savings, national security, balance of trade, and environment. The 45 mpg standard should be a goal of automakers and incorporated into national legislation.

But mandating higher efficiency standards is not enough. We need a national energy conservation strategy that will make use of revenue-neutral market incentives to reward consumers who conserve and make polluters and energy-wasters pay.

I support federal tax incentives for renewable resources. Tax incentives would merely level the playing field. Traditional energy sources reap many benefits from a tax structure slanted in their favor. Tax incentives would allow renewable energy to compete fairly.

We also need a new energy policy to lower the trade deficit, increase productivity, and improve the environment. We must rely less on imported oil, and more on cheap and abundant natural gas, and on research and development into renewable energy resources. We must achieve European standards of energy efficiency in factories and office buildings. That will free up billions of dollars to invest in the American economy.